

Virtual Meeting Instruction

DOWNTOWN NEIGHBOR NETWORK ADVISORY



Hello,

For the safety and wellbeing of our members and employees, we would like to continue to move GR Forward through virtual meetings.

We have decided to use Microsoft Teams for video/phone conferencing for all upcoming board and alliance meetings. Teams has many exciting features including screen sharing, recording, live captions, file sharing, and more. Below are instructions on how to access your upcoming virtual meeting.



MICROSOFT TEAMS

How to Join the Meeting:

1. It is recommended to download the App (not necessary):
 - a. [Apple Devices](#).
 - b. [Android Devices](#).
2. When you click the following link, it will prompt you to choose: Launch App, Download App, or Join by the web.
3. [Click here](#) to access the Team meeting.
4. **Allow access to your mic and camera** (this is very important for you to join the conversation).
5. Prior to joining the meeting, it will require you type your name. Make sure your mic and audio are on and select join.

Virtual Meeting Etiquette:

- Test the app and all technology (including camera/video, Wi-Fi, and audio) before the meeting.
- Always have a contingency plan, you may want to download the app to a second device.
- Mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- Start a comment by saying your name. Not everyone may recognize your voice. This practice also facilitates the work of the person who is taking minutes.
- Be aware of your surroundings: make sure your background is professional and work appropriate.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please email officeadmin@downtowngr.org. Thank you!

AGENDA



DNN Advisory

Members:

Christopher Billmeier • Daniel Drent • Latesha Lipscomb • Kelli Jo Peltier • Neil Sly • Kathy Steindler • Eddie Tadlock • Jim Talen • Mark Tangen • Celeste McDonald • Paul Skentzos • Emma Suarez Pawlicki • Teresa Haggarty • Hal Froot

February 03, 2022

11:30pm- 1:00pm

29 Pearl Street NW, Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.

1. Introductions All Members
2. Approve January 2022 Meeting Minutes
3. Homeless Outreach Team Efforts Downtown Danielle Friedman & Tammy Britton
4. DID Reauthorization Melvin Eledge
5. Next Neighbor Event: Kendsie Channing
DID Reauthorization Informational Meeting – two opportunities to join:
 - o February 7, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM: [Register here!](#)
 - o February 8, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: [Register here](#)
6. Pedestrian Safety Project - Feedback All Members
7. Public Comment
8. Adjourn

Our next meeting will be held in-person on March 3, 2022, at 11:30 am.

The DNN exists to foster a community of downtown neighbors that are connected, informed and empowered to improve downtown living.





Downtown Neighbor Network Advisory

January 6, 2022

1. Call to order: Mrs. Channing called the meeting to order at 11:36 am.

DNN Members Present: Kelli Jo Peltier, Paul Skentzos, Daniel Drent, Christopher Billmeier, Kathy Steindler, Jim Talen, Neil Sly, Teresa Haggerty, Emma Suarez, Celeste McDonald, Latesha Lipscomb, and Mark Tangen.

DNN Members Absent: Eddie Tadlock and Hal Froot.

Others Present: Mark Miller, Corey Mathein, Melvin Eledge, Kendsie Channing, Mandy McDaniel (DGRI Staff).

2. Introductions

3. Updates:

- a. DID Reauthorization

presented an overview of the Downtown Improvement District (DID). The DID is a place management tool that helps keep Downtown clean, beautiful, and welcoming. The DID provides an enhanced level of service beyond what the city provides. Property owner requests services (sidewalk cleaning, public safety, landscaping, etc.), local government approves annual operating budget, services are paid by spreading the costs proportionally across owners.

Reauthorization process kicked off in August of 2021. The beginning phase included stakeholder engagement and now the DID Board's reauthorization sub-committee is preparing a budget for recommendation and final approval by the city.

Melvin would like to include more resident voices throughout the reauthorization process. A recent survey was conducted, most residents are concerned with the safety and quality of life issues (homelessness, panhandling, motorcycles, etc.) and generally pleased with the appearance of downtown. The survey link will be sent to members.

b. Pedestrian Safety Project

Kendsie stated the pedestrian safety project will kick-off as a pilot program this month. The focus will be on main corridors to advocate for “no turn on red”. Volunteers are welcome to choose from a list of intersections. While surveying, volunteers are asked to count how many cars turn right on red and how many pedestrian routes are interrupted. If there is another issue you see, please be sure to record that as well. We will report back in February on what worked and any recommended changes. Once finalized, the volunteer signups will be available to new recruits. The DNN member with the most recruits will win a prize.

Daniel Drent suggested removing intersections in front of DeVos and Van Andel Arena during big events with GRPD will be present for traffic control.

Corey Mathein stated to also be aware and make note if you notice environmental factors, such as snowbanks covering crosswalks.

4. Developing Protocols of Partnership Requests

Mrs. Channing stated the DNN has been asked on a few occasions for support from other organizations. Moving forward, it is suggested to have a system in place to determine how to manage such requests. Are there social issues the DNN aligns with? Are there organizations to continue to align/partner with? Are there larger community goals the DNN wants to advocate for?

Ms. Latesha Lipscomb stated she is a big fan of professional development opportunities and opportunities to empower people. When an ask comes, likes the idea of a sub-committee or an email to the group where everyone can weigh in.

Other members weighed in and agreed a presentation from the asking organization would be ideal if time is allowed. Followed by a group discussion and 2/3 majority consensus.

Mrs. Kendsie Channing stated she will plan for a future discussion on what the advisory board will and will not do in terms of actions.

5. Neighbor Event: January 14, 2022, 5 pm at Lyon Square

Mrs. Kendsie Channing stated one of the main objectives of the DNN is community building, to help make people feel engaged and build a neighborhood downtown. With COVID, it is hard to do this, but events will be the best way to connect people in 2022. Whether those events are virtual, educational, or in-person practicing social distancing.

The first neighbor event is next week - a World of Winter sneak peek walking tour with Caroline Cook from Grand Rapids Running Tours. The tour is open to all downtown residents. The flyer with a QR registration code will be sent to members to share with neighbors or to hang in building lobby.

6. Approval of September and December 2021 Meeting Minutes

Jim Talen, supported by Kelli Jo Peltier, motioned to approve December 2021 Meeting Minutes. None opposed. Motion passed.

7. Member Discussion

None.

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Next meeting February 03, 2022

Minutes taken by:

Mandy McDaniel

Administrative Assistant

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.